

March 8, 1984

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already said. We have talked a lot about property tax relief. Yes, we haven't seen our property taxes go down but I think that everything goes up and our relief has not kept pace with inflation. For instance, I think the last time we increased state aid to education was back in 1980. If you look at the price of anything today as compared to the price of 1980, it is considerably higher and I think the price of education is higher. This is one measure, we may not be able to cut property tax back, but at least we can slow the increase and as Senator Vickers said, we are going to pay for this one way or the other. We cannot expect our teachers to continue teaching without a raise in salary. The school boards are going to have to give an increase in salaries. If they buy new school buses, they are going to pay more money for them. I particularly like this...the part I like about this approach as opposed to the bill that I was speaking against the other day is that this money goes back to the local school district and they spend it, they can make the decision on how they are going to spend it and I think that should be the prerogative of the school board. I don't think that we should tell people how to spend their money, the school boards. I think they are responsible. There is one thing I don't like about this bill, is the lid. I am opposed to lids, but I might be willing to accept the lid under certain circumstances, but I have no problem going back to my district and telling them that I can support an increase in the income tax or the sales tax because I am quite sure they are going to spend this money one way or the other anyway. If we add \$50 million to the state aid package, there is going to be some relief for property tax. There may be some increases in cases, but they won't be nearly as high as they would be if we don't do anything. I have another concern about funding this bill its full amount because there is another, as I indicated the other day my second priority was retirement, a good retirement plan and I would hate to see us put all our money into this bill and not have anything left for the retirement program. I would like to do both of them. But this does address itself to better pay for teachers because the boards will have more money to spend for teachers salaries and they make that decision. I suppose I would accept the lid very, very reluctantly. I am opposed to lids, but I do support the